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PATENT
P55890A
32503



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of:

SUNG-KOOG OH et al.

Serial No.: 10/059,342

Examiner: *to be assigned*

Filed: 23 October 2001

Art Unit: *to be assigned*

For: OPTICAL FIBER PREFORM MANUFACTURING METHOD FOR SHRINKAGE
AND CLOSING OF DEPOSITED TUBE (as amended)

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Assistant Commissioner
for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, and 1.97 and 1.98 applicant cites, lists and discusses and encloses copies of the following art references cited in a *Communication Pursuant To Article 96(2) EPC* from the European Patent Office issued on the 7th of February corresponding European patent application No. 99 973 285.2.

U.S. PATENT REFERENCES:

<u>Patent No.</u>	<u>Inventor</u>	<u>Issued Date</u>
• 4,217,027	McChesney <i>et al.</i>	12 August 2980
• 4,636,236	Glessner <i>et al.</i>	13 January 1987

OTHER DOCUMENTS:

- *Communication Pursuant To Article 96(2) EPC* issued by the European Patent Office on the 7th February 2003) in corresponding co-pending Japanese patent application assigned serial No. 99 973 285.2.

DISCUSSION

The European Examiner asserted that MacChesney U.S. '027 "discloses an optical fiber preform manufacturing apparatus", and that is "process control unit explicitly defined in claim 1 is included in the apparatus of" MacChesney '027. Generally, MacChesney '027 describes a process for fabrication of a glass fiber optical transmission line with a core section and a cladding, with cladding having index of a refraction of a lower value than the maximum index of the core for energy of the wavelength to be transmitted. A moving stream of a vapor mixture including at least one compound glass-forming precursor together with an oxidizing medium is introduced into the tube while heating the tube so as to react mixture and produce a glassy deposit on the inner surface of the tube.

The European Examiner asserted that Glassner U.S. '236 solves the problem of the accelerating the collapsing step in order to prevent evaporation of dopant, with an apparatus that includes the vacuum pump in order to accelerate the collapse. As explained in claim 1 of Glassner '236, the final collapse of the soften portions "all said tubular glass body" is conducted "under said partial vacuum to form a preform, said partial vacuum selected to effectively eliminate a dip in index of refraction in the center of any glass fiber produced from said preform."

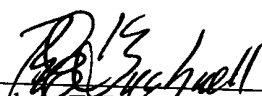
Pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.97 (e)(1), that each item of information contained in the Information

Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign patent application not more than (3) three months prior to the filing of the Information Disclosure Statement.

The citation of forgoing references is not tended to constitute representation to the Examiner that a search of the prior art has been made by the Applicant. Accordingly, the U.S. Examiner is requested to make a thorough and wide-ranging search of the prior art during the examination.

No fee is incurred by filing this Information Disclosure Statement.

Respectfully submitted,


Robert E. Bushnell
Reg. No.: 27,774

1522 "K" Street, N.W., Suite 300
Washington, D.C. 20005
Area Code: 202-408-9040
Folio: P55890A
Date: 24 March 2003
I.D.: REB/asc

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

PTO-1449

SERIAL NUMBER 10/059,342

DOCKET NO. P55890A

APPLICANT

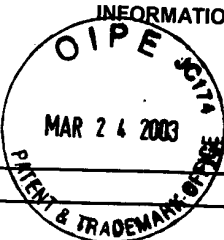
Sung-Koog OHet al.

FILING DATE

22 August 2001

GROUP

to be assigned



U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINE	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE
	4,217,027	08/80	MacChesney et al.			
	4,636,236	01/87	Glessner et al.			

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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATI	YES	N

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)

"Communication Pursuant To Article 96(2) EPC" issued by European Patent Office dated on 7 February 2003

EXAMINER:

DATE CONSIDERED:

EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP §609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.